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## THE 1773 — COLONIAL VIRGINIA COPPER HALFPENCE GENERATION

Dear New Generation Newsletter Member:

The "Generation" is a select group of Colonial Virginia Halfpence collectors, recently organized in Vienna, Virginia to protect the integrity and to promote the welfare of these 232 year old specimens of American history. Being the very first authorized legal coinage in the Colonial American monetary system, it is imperative that they be more widely recognized and properly acclaimed as such.

By joining together, the Generation can more effectively channel the following efforts:

- A. Distribute accurate current information on the Virginia Halfpence.
- B. Be a collection point for interesting and new developments in the Virginia Halfpence world.
- C. Questions can be raised. Theories can be offered. New insights can be found.
- D. Articles can be distributed in the Generation Newsletter.
- E. A listing of pertinent publications can be made available.
- F. Most of all, together, we can promote this "variety set" oriented specimen to major auction houses and eventually to the numismatic world at large.
- G. The rarity of various sets will eventually command more and more recognition and then the Colonial Virginia copper Halfpence will finally be in proper perspective. True valuation by variety set should follow closely. Coin dealers rarely ever want to be left out of anything that is developing greater market values.

Let it be known that Eric P. Newman (Godfather of the Colonial Virginia copper Halfpence) is this very moment preparing variety data to pull together all of his previously published work and any current details for a new monograph. This will, at last, allow all collectors and the dealers to accurately classify any known variety set.

I would like to urge each potential member of the Generation that you act quickly to join. For, membership is by invitation only. This is it ! Anonymous membership is quite possible, though one would be at a real disadvantage to circulate freely within the total membership.

Hi Roger and Alan: (This is a shared letter)

Veach/ 06-25-05

When I was first looking for eager/avid 1773 Colonial Virginia copper Halfpence collectors, as members of the Generation Newsletter, I had asked Eric and many others for possible candidates for membership --- no one ever mentioned either of you. As I told Roger earlier, when I first started the Generation Newsletter --- I had already decided to have the Commonwealth of Virginia to recognize Eric Newman's 1956 Monograph and his establishing that the 1773 Colonial copper Halfpence (minted in the London Tower Mint, in London, after many requests by the Virginia House of Burgesses --- was actually the first authorized legal coinage of Colonial America. I plotted alone, in secret. And then, "Bam," I unloaded it on everyone in surprise, especially Eric. Now, I'm plotting again --- about what --- no one knows.

I think that we all would have benefitted if only you two had been members.

When I chose a motto and placed it in the right hand corner of every letter's header page, it said: "resolve to protect its historic integrity and to promote its welfare." I tried. Now, you two are doing a hell of a job, too. When I studied what both of you are avidly doing --- getting all the Obverse and all the Reverse images together, in one place, not just for yourselves, but to help anyone else truly interested in the 1773 Virginia copper gems. You two have taken up --- protecting its integrity and promoting its welfare, right now! I find your interest in acquiring copies of the Generation Newsletter is admirable. My only concern was --- not really knowing what you two were about --- doing --- the privacy of the previous distinguished members. I will have a final listing in the 2nd Letter.

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Therefore, even though it has been discontinued, I'm enrolling both of you as members of record, after the fact. You will be on the membership listing, in the copy of the 2nd Generation Newsletter that you will receive (next time). Please READ the Bylaws and Constitution very carefully. a lot of thought went into them. If you ever get the idea to start a periodical or quarterly Newsletter, they may help. I do think that no one will say he or she feels that they were disappointed. That is the test.

Enclosed you will find the first chapter or Newsletter. Get yourself a RED binder. (Mr. Stilman is not to see any of the Generation Newsletter/ though Eric may have shown Stilman his copy on the side. They are very close, professionally.) For, if I let him print it and sell it it would be a violation of the membership's trust.

The second Generation Newsletter membership listing will have phone no.'s and addresses: some may very well be obsolete, mine is. You are free to contact any of them. Tell them you are now a new member and that I'm still alive, by God. These are very very nice folks. The anonymous member to join (3rd), I can now say privately, was the (then) Governor Wilder of Virginia, and he was quite interested in the early copper Virginia coinage. And, I knew that I might need a strong ally when it came to getting Eric's bill passed in the Virginia State Legislature. He still has a nice Va 1/2 d.

NOTE: Francis Campbell was an interested party, because of Eric's presence, non-collector and kind enough to allow me to funnel a copy of the Generation Newsletter into the ANS Library's reading file (a public leak), through him.

That reminds me, I owe you another surprise --- no, two of them, come to think of it, very soon. Most unusual. For both of you. More, later.

Sincerely,

*Bill*  
Bill